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TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER and
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1954



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MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS MOSER AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1954.

During the year the retirement of Mr. Densham, Chief Sanitary Inspector, followed a prolonged illness. His services to the Town were greatly appreciated, especially in the high standard he inaugurated for meat inspection and the zeal with which he tackled the problem of slum clearance. Throughout the 34 years (of which we worked together for 26 years) his keen attention to all matters of Public Health was unfailing, and it was with regret that I experienced the severing of our mutual interests.

Faithfully yours,

JEAN MURRAY.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,250 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	14,060
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	£110,060
Sum represented by Penny Rate (year 1953-54)	...	...	...	...	...	£439
Total number of houses in Urban District (31-12-54)	...	...	...	...	...	4,492

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Population	...	14,060	(Registrar General's figure)	
			M.	F.	Total	1953
<u>Live Births</u> —	Legitimate	...	108	98	206	210
	Illegitimate	...	3	0	3	7
Total		...	111	98	209	217
<u>Still Births</u> —	Legitimate	...	2	1	3	3
	Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	0
Total		...	2	1	3	3
<u>Deaths from all causes</u>		...	77	71	148	156
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :						
	Legitimate	...	3	0	3	2
	Illegitimate	...	1	0	1	0
Total		...	4	0	4	2
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks			1	0	1	1

	Urban District	England and Wales
Crude Live Birth rate	14.86 per 1,000 of population.	Comparison 15.5
Corrected Birth rate	15.45	
(Comparability Factor 1.04)		
Still Birth rate	0.213 per 1,000 of population.	„ 35
Crude Death rate :		
All Causes	10.53 per 1,000 of population.	„ 11.4
Corrected Death rate	9.06	
(Comparability Factor .86)		
Infants under 1 year	19.1 per 1,000 live births.	„ 26.8
Death rate of Infants under 4 weeks	4.8 per 1,000 live births.	„ —

Analysis of deaths from all causes.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	9	20
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	14	24
Coronary Disease, Angina	14	5	19
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—	1
Other Heart Diseases	11	16	27
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	8	9
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	6	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other Accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
TOTALS	77	71	148

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. *Comparability Factors.* Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are given and may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

I. STAFF.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. *Part-time Medical Officer:* Dr. J. Murray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who acts for Trowbridge U.D., Bradford-on-Avon U.D., and is also an Assistant County Medical Officer.
 2. *Senior Sanitary Inspector:* L. B. Densham, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(Also acts as Authorised Officer under (1) The Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, (2) Pet Animals Act, 1951, (3) Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953, and (4) Factories Act, 1937, Section 34). Retired 31st October, 1954.
Deputy Sanitary Inspector: Donald S. Smith, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. Appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector 1st November, 1954.
Additional Sanitary Inspector: D. J. Emm, M.S.I.A. Appointed 9th June, 1954.
 3. *Clerical Staff:* A typist whose time is divided between the Trowbridge Public Health Department and the other authority for which the Medical Officer acts.
Mrs. Adam left March, 1954. Mrs. Hillyer appointed 24th May, 1954.
 4. *Rodent Operator.*
- II. (a) *Laboratory Facilities.* (1) Public Health Laboratory, Salisbury, (2) Public Health Laboratory, Bath, (3) Waterfall and O'Brien, Bristol.
- (b) *Ambulance Facilities.* The County Council's Ambulance Station for this area is at Woolley Grange, Bradford-on-Avon.
- (c) *Nursing in the Home.* There are two district nurses and one midwife.
- (d) *Home Helps.* The County Council Home Help service is well established and great assistance has been given in cases of illness and infirmity. It should be clearly understood that Home Helps are not intended, and should not be expected, to undertake any nursing—their duties are household ones only.
- (e) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.* The County Council Clinic, The Halve, is used for all clinics.
The Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m.
Immunisation. A session is held every fourth Thursday.
Specialist Clinics are held on other occasions.
- (f) *Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes.*
1. *Trowbridge and District Hospital.* This is a general hospital with a Maternity Department of 13 beds.
 2. *Trowbridge and District Isolation Hospital.* This hospital still admits cases of infectious disease. The beds are mainly used for general medical purposes. There are also 8 Tuberculosis beds for male cases.
 3. There is a private Maternity Home: it accommodates 16 persons—13 maternity cases and 3 others.

CARE OF THE AGED.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47. 1. *Case reported in 1952.* This old man is still under protection at Meyrick Close, Salisbury; extensions of the original order have been granted each three months. He was admitted to hospital in November and it is unlikely that he will return to Meyrick Close.

It must again be stated how the great assistance given to old people by " Home Helps " prevents the necessity of removing them from their own homes. We cannot be too grateful for the unremitting care given by the Health Visitors of the County Council in finding suitable " Home Helps " for these people, and the sympathetic consideration the individual cases get from the County Medical Officer, the County Welfare Officer and the Secretary of the West Regional Hospital Management Committee and their staffs.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—There has been no change in the water supply; the amount has been always sufficient and the quality excellent.

SALISBURY AREA PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE.

The General Infirmary,
Salisbury.

REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Water sample received on 1/11/54 from Trowbridge U.D.C.
14, Fore Street, Trowbridge. (Handbasin).

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours :
1 per m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

Quantity of water tested.	Acid and gas from lactose.									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculation made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : NIL.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

3/11/54.

M. P., *Pathologist.*

(Information under the next 3 headings supplied by the Surveyor, Mr. G. S. Day).

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The duties of refuse collection are steadily increasing year by year with the development of Council and Private Enterprise housing estates, not only as regards the quantity of refuse collected but also in the distances to be covered by the vehicles in collecting it.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—The reorganisation scheme was largely complete by the end of the year and the new plant in operation, except for the automatic control of the recirculation system.

SEWERAGE.—Apart from extensions on Council and private enterprise housing estates, no new works were carried out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Measles		Acute Poliomyelitis				Whooping Cough		Food Poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
5	3	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	7	12	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	3	3	—	2	—	—	—	9	22	—	—

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Tuberculosis			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Respiratory		Other	
0	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case.

Here we have a paradox. The average parents look after their children well: “immunisation” is almost a household word—(some have forgotten what disease it is preventing)—measles and whooping cough still hold almost casual places in their minds (although more are having whooping cough immunising done). Let, however, the rumour (without confirmation) of “polio” get round and a stampede is set up—*without* anyone hardly having taken care to study the simple rules of *Summer-time child care*.

It has been stated over and over again in the daily papers, as well as in special publications, that avoidance of extra exertion and prevention of over-tiredness in young people is the best safeguard against serious forms of poliomyelitis.

Yet how many mothers see that their children go to bed at a suitable hour? If one or two *do* try to, how are the children to settle if none of the neighbours take their children in?

The excuse is that "they won't sleep in the bright sunlight." When I ask (as I often do), "Do you put your children to bed at 5 p.m. in winter?" I receive pitying looks, as much as to say that I am mad—and so I say: "It's more sensible to put an 8-year-old to bed at 5 in winter than it is to keep it up till dark in summer." And I also point out that it isn't only since "Summer-time" was instituted that children don't want to go to bed, for Robert Louis Stevenson put the child's point of view perfectly:—

In Winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light;
In Summer quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
And hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play
To have to go to bed by day?

and *he* died in 1894.

There are still some unfortunate children who have to share their parents' bedroom; but the majority of children whose parents worry so much about "polio" live in good houses with sufficient bedrooms for decent living. If more parents would realise that a child lying in bed reading or playing with suitable toys (even if not sleeping as soon as might be wished) is *resting*, that would be *one* precaution against their worst fear.

In prevention of certain diseases of modern life—poliomyelitis, Sonnë and other dysenteries, food poisoning—the longer one lives the more one realises that *the proper washing of hands* is one of the greatest barriers against their spread. If children are taught to wash their hands immediately on leaving the water closet (I will *not* use the loathsome word "toilet"—poor, ill-used word) and again before each meal, their mothers will also remember that *she* must wash her hands after soaking the babies nappies and many other household tasks before she begins to prepare the family's meals: and father must set a good example by washing at all the right times:—then when *all* children are trained to this procedure, there is hope that when *they* are food handlers, whether in their own homes or in food factories, cafés and shops, the standard of all personal hygiene in such places will be as high as the *best* is now.

HOUSING

<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats (Conversions)</i>	<i>Flats (2-storey)</i>	<i>Prefabricated Bungalows</i>	<i>Old Persons Bungalows</i>	<i>Pollard Huts</i>	<i>Nissen Huts</i>	<i>Shops and Flats</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dwellings occupied at 1/1/54	864	4	57	46	50	3	—	1028
Completed and occupied during 1954	77	8	—	—	—	—	6	91
Vacated and demolished	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1119
Occupied at 31/12/54	941	12	57	46	50	—	6	1116

The 91 dwellings completed during the year provided accommodation for 284 persons.

Exchanges of tenancies	7
Transfers from houses to Old Persons Bungalows	6
Transfers from three to four bedroom type houses	1
Transfers from two to three bedroom type houses	7
Transfers from three to three bedroom type houses	1
Transfers from Nissen huts to three bedroom type houses	2
Re-lets	30

The 30 re-lets provided accommodation for 102 persons.

A. BYERS, *Housing Manager*.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Trowbridge Urban District Council.

MISS MOSER AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1954.

Due to the illness of Mr. L. B. Densham during the year until his retirement, it will be appreciated that activities in certain branches of the work of the Department were necessarily curtailed.

Yours obediently,

DONALD S. SMITH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. SLAUGHTERING.

As a result of de-control of slaughtering by the Government the two slaughterhouses operated by the Ministry of Food returned to private ownership at the beginning of July.

Early in the year, consideration had been given by the Slaughterhouse Sub-Committee to the question of available slaughtering accommodation following de-control, but on consulting the meat traders in the district their demand proved insufficient to justify the provision by the Council of public slaughtering facilities.

One of the slaughterhouses has since been operated principally for the slaughter of calves for the London market.

Improvements were effected to the slaughtering arrangements at the two bacon factories during the year and further improvements were in hand.

No new slaughtering accommodation was provided following de-control, and at the end of the year four slaughterhouses had been licensed under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

2. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-1954.

The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, which came into operation on 1st October, amended enactments relating to the slaughter of animals. Under its provisions, the slaughtermen's licences, previously issued by the Council for three-yearly periods, are now issuable for periods not exceeding one year. Licences are now required to specify the kinds of animals the holder may slaughter and the type of stunning instrument he may use.

At 31st December, 1954, twenty-three slaughtermen held licences under the Acts.

3. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat inspection work has continued to occupy a considerable proportion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time, both during and outside normal office hours.

The following table indicates the number of animals slaughtered in the district and the proportion found to be affected with disease :—

MEAT INSPECTION AT BACON FACTORIES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES, 1954.

	<i>Bulls, Steers, and Heifers</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed	715	408	2,527	4,882	67,257
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	3	22	17	149
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	170	151	6	417	551
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	24.19%	37.74%	1.11%	8.89%	1.04%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	9	2	—	37
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	58	81	2	—	1,187
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.67%	22.06%	0.16%	—	1.82%

Percentage of all cattle inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis : 29.12%.

Percentage of all cattle inspected affected with tuberculosis : 13.54%.

The total weights of meat and other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year was as follows :—

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Beef	12	9	1	4	12
Mutton	1	2	3	4	0
Veal	0	12	0	26	0
Pork	30	2	0	17	0
Other Foods	0	13	1	0	12
Total	44	19	2	24	8

4. DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

On de-control, occupiers of slaughterhouses were no longer obliged by law to stain meat unfit for human consumption with an approved colouring agent before it left the premises. The Food & Drugs Amendment Act, 1954, provides for making regulations requiring staining or sterilisation of such meat, but this Act had not been brought into operation at the end of the year.

Arrangements were made during the year for foodstuffs condemned at local food premises to be disposed of under supervision at the refuse tip.

5. FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the district by type of business was as follows :—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fish and Chip Saloons	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bacon Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Food Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Breweries	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brewery Maltings	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beer Bottling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wine and Spirit Bottling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mineral Water Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total							208

6. REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES.

Number of premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

(i) (a) For the Sale of Ice-cream	...	...	...	42
(b) For the Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream	...	...	...	6
(ii) For the preparation or manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food intended for Sale	...	...	...	10

N.B.—Three of the premises registered for the manufacture of Ice-cream were not used for that purpose during the year.

7. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections made at food premises under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and Food By-laws are tabulated in the summary of inspections at the end of this Report.

Particular attention was given to premises used for food preparation. A number of improvements were effected by informal action but no conditions requiring statutory action were found.

In recent years there has been a gradual improvement in food handling and in hygienic conditions at food premises, but a good deal still remains to be done.

8. MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

(i) Number of registered dairies (not being dairy farms)	...	...	...	4
(ii) Number of registered distributors of milk	...	...	...	10

9. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS.

The following licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-1953 :—

- (i) Dealer's Licences to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" ... 5
- (ii) Dealer's Licences to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ... 5
- (iii) Supplementary Licences to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" 1
- (iv) Supplementary Licences to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ... 5

10. MILK SAMPLING.

Due to staff shortage it was not possible to re-commence milk sampling until July.

Designation of Milk	Number of Samples taken	Number complying with the prescribed standards	Number not complying with prescribed standards
Pasteurised	24	24	Nil
T.T. Pasteurised	9	9	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	26	21	5
T.T. Channel Island	8	8	Nil
TOTALS	67	62	5

Of the above samples 17 were subjected to biological tests (for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus) and in each case there was a negative result.

The five unsatisfactory samples of Tuberculin Tested milk involved two separate supplies, in one case from a producer-retailer licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and in the other case a dealer, licensed by the Council, with dairy premises within the district. In the latter instance the unsatisfactory samples were of milk derived from a licensed producer outside the area.

With the co-operation of the National Milk Testing Service and the County Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries an improvement was effected in both supplies and subsequent samples conformed to the legal standard.

11. ICE-CREAM SAMPLING.

In the continued absence of a legal bacteriological standard, ice-cream samples have been graded in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Health Laboratory Service and Ministry of Health.

Details of samples taken are as follows, the results indicating the very satisfactory bacteriological quality of ice-cream sold in the district:—

Number of Samples Taken	Provisional Grade			
	I	II	III	IV
63	63	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

As expected from the Government publication, "Houses—The Next Step," the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation on 30th August, 1954. Under its provisions, additional powers were granted to Local Authorities for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation, a new standard of fitness was defined, amendments were made to the law regarding improvement grants, and provision was made for rent increases in certain cases ("Repairs Increases").

Section 1 of the Act requires the Council to submit to the Minister within one year its proposals for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation; for this purpose a preliminary survey of the housing accommodation in the district was commenced towards the end of the year.

The effect of the new standard of fitness is problematical, but it seems that it may result in a somewhat lower standard than has been set by the Council in the past.

By the end of the year there was no evidence that the proposals regarding "Repairs Increases" were having the intended effect of encouraging owners of dwellings to maintain them in good repair. As is shown below, no formal applications for certificates of disrepair were received nor were any certificates issued.

The following statistics indicate action taken under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts during the year :—

A.—INSPECTIONS.

(1) Inspections made under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	192
---	-----	-----	-----

B.—CLEARANCE AREAS (HOUSING ACT, 1936).

(1) Number of unfit dwelling houses demolished during the year	...	12
(2) Number of persons displaced	...	Nil

C.—DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.

		<i>Number of houses.</i>	<i>Number of persons displaced.</i>
1. <i>Housing Act, 1936</i>			
(a) Demolition Orders made under Section 11	...	Nil	Nil
(b) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	...	9	12
(c) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11	...	3	9
(d) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	...	Nil	Nil
2. <i>Housing Act, 1949</i>			
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	...	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	...	Nil	Nil
3. <i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</i>			
Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	...	2	6

D.—REPAIRS—INFORMAL ACTION.

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the year as a result of informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts	...	11
---	-----	----

E.—REPAIRS—STATUTORY ACTION.

(1) <i>Public Health Acts</i>		
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil
(2) <i>Housing Act, 1936</i>		
(i) Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 & 16) :—		
(a) By owners	...	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil
(ii) Number of unfit houses for which undertakings by owners to make fit were accepted (Section 11)	...	Nil

F.—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

(*Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954*).

Number of applications for certificates received	...	Nil
--	-----	-----

G.—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

(*Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954*).

(1) Number of applications for improvement grants received	...	3
(2) (i) Number of applications for improvement grants refused	...	2
(ii) Number of improvement grants made	...	1

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, were renewed for the year in respect of four caravans used for human habitation.

There is no licensed caravan site in the district, nor would there appear to be a demand or need for such a site.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Alterations to the by-products plant at one of the bacon factories involved its extension to provide two departments, one for edible by-products and the other for inedible by-products. The extension was necessary as a result of the increased throughput of this factory which was over-loading the existing by-products plant. Consent was given by the Council under Section 107, Public Health Act, 1936, for carrying on the trades of blood boiling, blood drying, bone boiling, fat extraction, fat melting and gut scraping for a period of two years.

RODENT CONTROL.

The table below indicates the work carried out during the year. In addition, two treatments were made of the soil sewers.

Infestations of premises are treated by the Rodent Operator on the request of the occupier. For dwelling houses a small nominal charge is made; for business premises the full cost of the treatment is charged.

Surveys made by the Rodent Operator revealed a number of rat and mouse infestations which had not been reported. It was often found in these cases that the occupiers of premises were ignorant of their legal obligation under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, to notify the Council of such infestations.

	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Properties	Totals
1. No. of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	4	44	31	—	79
(b) Survey under the Act ...	11	275	20	9	315
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	120	125	—	245
2. Total inspections carried out ...	78	910	545	12	1545
3. No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Major	2	—	3	—	5
{ Minor	—	50	14	—	64
(b) Mice { Major	5	—	1	—	6
{ Minor	1	2	18	—	21
4. No. of infested properties treated by the Council	8	49	36	—	93
5. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments	19	69	65	—	153
6. No. of "block" control schemes carried out	—	3	1	—	4

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	13	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	97	35	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	2	—	—
TOTAL	111	50	12	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	3	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	7	—	6	—

3.—OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing / Making, etc. ... apparel / Cleaning and washing	59 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Furniture and Upholstery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	60	—	—	—	—	—

4.—FIRE ESCAPES (Section 34).

Certain factories are required by the Factories Act, 1937, to be certified by the Council as being provided with satisfactory means of escape in case of fire.

Three new certificates were issued during the year and at the 31st December, 1954, a total of sixteen certificates were in force.

In two further cases alterations to the means of escape were in progress.

The co-operation and advice received from the County Fire Prevention Officer, Wiltshire County Fire Brigade, has been much appreciated.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

(i) Premises registered for the purposes of the Act ...	...	...	1
(ii) Licences issued during 1953 to store Rag Flock ...	...	...	1

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936.

(i) Number of new licences issued for storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures ...	...	...	1
(ii) Number of renewal licences issued for storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures ...	...	...	45
(iii) Number of renewal licences issued for storage of carbide of calcium ...	...	...	2
(iv) Total quantity of petroleum spirit for which licences were issued ...	56,825	gallons	
(v) Total quantity of carbide of calcium for which licences were issued ...	1,112	pounds	

Early in the year it became evident that the conditions attached to the petroleum spirit licences were largely obsolete and required complete revision.

After consideration of the suggested licensing conditions of the Home Office and of the Wiltshire County Fire Brigade, new General Licensing Requirements and Licensing Conditions were adopted by the Council in December. The new licensing conditions will apply to all licences issued after 31st March, 1955.

Valuable assistance in this matter was received from the County Fire Prevention Officer.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Number of licences issued to keep pet shops	...	...	...	2
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HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) REGULATIONS, 1953.

These Regulations became fully operative on the 1st October, 1954.

14 inspections were made, as a result of which a small number of appliances were found not to comply with the Regulations. In each case these were withdrawn from sale and no formal action was necessary.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' INSPECTIONS.

					<i>Primary Inspections.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Housing Act, 1936—Section 9	...	...	...	...	6	10
	Section 11	...	...	...	7	62
	Section 25	...	...	...	—	44
Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	—	10
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	8	3
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	2	1
Housing Surveys	...	...	...	...	8	—
Houses under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	28	10
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	7	2
Entertainment Houses	...	...	...	...	2	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	3	4
Animals or Birds	...	...	...	...	4	4
Ashes Accommodation	...	...	...	...	17	45
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	3	4
Yards, Courts, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	2
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other Visits—Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	20	7
Drainage—Inspections	...	...	...	...	60	43
	Tests	...	...	...	7	1
Closets—Water	...	...	...	...	53	13
	Pails or Privies	...	...	...	2	3
Urinals	...	...	...	...	10	—
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	4	4
Sewers and Street Gullies	...	...	...	...	3	—
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	2	5
Milkshops and Dairies	...	...	...	...	5	4
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	4	—
Bakchouses	...	...	...	...	7	7
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	24	23
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	60	20
Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	2	—
Markets	...	...	...	...	4	2
Meat and Food Inspection						
	at Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	452	3
	at Bacon Factories	...	...	...	438	2
	at Other Food Premises	...	...	...	75	5
Factories—(with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	35	13
	(without mechanical power)	...	...	...	13	3
	Fire Escapes	...	...	...	9	18
	Outworkers	...	...	...	1	—
	Other Premises	...	...	...	2	—
Carried forward	...	...	...	...	1394	381

					<i>Primary Inspections.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Brought forward	...	...	...	...	1394	381
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	48	3
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	56	20
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	1	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	11	5
Premises Disinfected	...	...	...	...	5	—
Smoke—Observations	...	...	...	...	21	—
Premises Visited	...	...	...	...	26	2
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	7	37
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	1	—
Heating Appliances Regulations	...	...	...	...	14	—
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	79	3
Interviews—Owners, Tradesmen, etc.	...	...	...	...	106	—
Stage Play Licence Certificates	...	...	...	...	3	1
Samples—Water	...	...	...	...	2	—
Milk—Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	67	—
Biological Examination	...	...	...	...	17	—
Ice-cream Samples	...	...	...	...	63	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	<u>1922</u>	<u>453</u>

